

## **Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program**

Sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the nation's principal conservation agency. Our mission is to protect America's treasures for future generations, provide access to our nation's natural and cultural heritage, offer recreation opportunities, honor our trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives and our responsibilities to island communities, conduct scientific research, provide wise stewardship of energy and mineral resources, foster sound use of land and water resources, and conserve and protect fish and wildlife. DOI manages 507 million acres of surface land, or about one-fifth of the land in the United States, including 95 million acres managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, 84 million acres managed by the National Park Service and 262 million acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Much of this land is managed for resource protection, such as at Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks, two of the nation's crown jewels, but other lands are managed for multiple use benefits including mineral development.

The DOI has created this awards program to showcase some of the finest examples of responsible mineral resource development. The award winners will illustrate our understanding of sustainable development - development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The awards program will help us transfer successful ideas and practices from one place to additional locations throughout the nation. We can also acknowledge and thank those individuals and organizations that make a difference to the quality of life we all share.

This new awards program is being initiated to recognize oil and gas operators that have made exemplary contributions to fluid minerals management in either of the categories listed below. The DOI also intends to recognize those operations that exemplify the Secretary's four Cs initiative: consultation, cooperation, communication—all in the service of conservation.

### **The Fluid Minerals Environmental Award**

This component of sustainable development relates to environmental stewardship. This category recognizes achievements demonstrating continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed Federal, State or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight. Outstanding efforts to work with the public, the DOI or other regulators to further multiple-use objectives would qualify candidates for this award. In addition to high quality reclamation, an operator may have undertaken extraordinary measures to reduce the footprint of the operation on the land, reducing the government's liability for idle wells, removing old equipment or pipelines no longer needed, and reclaiming the lands. The judges will consider the extent to which the operator consulted and cooperated with other stakeholders to determine the goals of reclamation and post surface use when evaluating nominations in this category. Recognition with this award

may be granted to organizations that provide outstanding examples of any of the following:

- Adopting best practices to minimize environmental degradation and adapting them to local conditions as necessary.
- Preventing pollution and minimizing noise and dust during operations.
- Handling hazardous materials safely.
- Reclaiming the land to prevent erosion and planting native species targeting the same plant communities as existed prior to mining.
- Being a leader in developing, establishing and implementing good environmental practices.

#### The Fluid Mineral Award For **Community Outreach and Economic Security**

These components of sustainable development relate to the concern shown for community responsibilities and the economic benefits of mineral development. This category recognizes the successful coordination of projects with local and regional stakeholders. Projects that contribute to the quality of life or demonstrate concern for the long-term health of the local community can be recognized in this category. In this category DOI can also recognize operators whose use of new or innovative techniques allow them to successfully operate in technically challenging conditions or in critical environmental settings. The judges will also consider any particularly creative ways operators incorporated community concerns in their development or closure plans. Particularly notable examples of the following kinds of activities could qualify a nominee for an award:

- Engaging local communities and other affected organizations in an open, honest and effective process of consultation for the entire project life.
- Promoting health and safety both on and off the project site.
- Investing in programs that improve the skills and productivity of the workforce.
- Being a progressive and constructive partner in advancing the economic, educational and social infrastructure of the community.
- Developing and using technology in support of economic and social considerations.

### **Who is eligible for this award?**

Fluid operators on Federal or Indian lands may be nominated for an award. This would include operators of oil and gas leases, oil refiners, gas processing plants and gas gathering operations. The nominated operators will have demonstrated a commitment to excellence.

### **How do I nominate an operator or organization for this award?**

Nominations are the beginning of the selection process. Oil and Gas companies, regulatory authorities, nearby landowners and members of the general public may nominate operations for these awards. Company officials and employees may nominate their own operations for recognition.

Nominations must contain all of the information listed in the “Required Information” section and indicate the award category for the nomination. Nominations should be sent to the BLM State Office with jurisdiction for public lands in the State where the operation is located. The addresses for these State Offices and areas of their jurisdiction are shown in the following table.

BLM State Office and Mailing Address	Area of Jurisdiction
Alaska State Office Bureau of Land Management 222 West 7th Avenue, # 13 Anchorage, AK 99513-7599 907-271 -5960	Alaska
Arizona State Office Bureau of Land Management 222 North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004-2203 602-417-9200	Arizona
California State Office Bureau of Land Management 2800 Cottage Way Suite W-1834 Sacramento, CA 95825-0451 916-978-4600	California

<p>Colorado State Office Bureau of Land Management 2850 Youngfield Street Lakewood, CO 80215-7093 303-239-3600</p>	<p>Colorado</p>
<p>Eastern States State Office Bureau of Land Management 7450 Boston Boulevard Springfield, VA 22153 703-440-1727</p>	<p>Subsurface Federal Lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin</p>
<p>Idaho State Office Bureau of Land Management 1387 South Vinnell Way Boise, ID 83709-1657 208-384-3000</p>	<p>Idaho</p>
<p>Montana State Office Bureau of Land Management 5001 Southgate Drive Billings, MT 59107-2904 406-896-5012</p>	<p>Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota</p>
<p>Nevada State Office Bureau of Land Management 1340 Financial Boulevard Reno, NV 89502-7147 702-785-6400</p>	<p>Nevada</p>

New Mexico State Office Bureau of Land Management 1474 Rodeo Drive Santa Fe, NM 87505 505-438-7400	Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas
Oregon State Office Bureau of Land Management Robert Duncan Plaza Building 333 SW 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue Portland, OR 97204 503-808-6024	Oregon and Washington
Utah State Office Bureau of Land Management 324 South State Street Suite 301 Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155 801-539-4010	Utah
Wyoming State Office Bureau of Land Management 5353 Yellowstone Road Cheyenne, WY 82003 307-775 -6256	Wyoming And Nebraska
Headquarters Office Bureau of Land Management 1849 C St., N.W. MS-LS-501 Washington, DC 20240-0001 202-452-0340	

### **Required Information**

Cover sheet containing:

- Company, organization or person's name making nomination
- Name and location of the nominated operation
- Award category

- Name, address, phone number and email address (if available) of a contact person in the company or organization and of the person submitting the nomination, if different.

#### Narrative Description:

- Brief history and background of the oil and gas practice, reclamation or community activity nominated for the award
- Description of the specific activity or practice, including specifics on problems, solutions, benefits and unusual circumstances
- Effectiveness of the work, quantified where possible
- Transferability of the work or value of the accomplishments to other oil and gas or mineral management operations
- Long term benefits to the land owner, neighboring properties and the community
- Statement summarizing why the award is deserved

#### Photographs

Photographs should be included if they help to document the success of the nominated activity. Not all nominated activities can be photographed, but pictures should be included when available. Photographs should be 8” by 10” or smaller and include a description explaining what is illustrated and a date.

#### Format

Please submit five copies of the nomination on 8½” by 11” paper. Our panel of judges needs the additional copies. Please limit your nomination to 6 pages of text. There is no limit on the number of photographs you can include.

Supporting documentation, such as letters of recognition from regulators or community officials, is not required but may be submitted with the nomination.

#### **Selection of Award Winners**

The BLM State Offices will review each of the nominations they receive, verify the information contained in the nomination and that the operation or program complies with applicable regulations. All nominations will be forwarded to the BLM Headquarters Office with recommendations for judging. Please note that nominations need not be limited to operations on land managed by BLM even though BLM is providing administrative support for this award system to the DOI.

The panel of judges will consist of fluid minerals experts and may be State or Federal employees, employees of academic institutions or members of the public. Each judge will rate each application based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Maximum Points
----------	----------------

Clarity and thoroughness of the nomination	10
Effectiveness of the project or program	25
Transferability of the technique, practice or program	20
Difficulty presented by the problem addressed by the project or program	20
Extent to which the project or program exceeds regulatory requirements or public expectations	25

The judges' scores are tallied and the finalists are selected. The judges will be encouraged to use their personal experience to guide them when evaluating the unique aspects of each application. There may be situations where the categories above do not adequately capture all of these unique characteristics. The judges may modify the categories by consensus if there is a need to do so. The award winners will then be selected from the list of finalists. The judges determine the number of finalists that are selected. There is no minimum or maximum number of awards that may be granted in any one year. There may not be a winner in both categories in all years.

### **Important Dates**

For the 2004 award cycle nominations are due to BLM State Office by June 30, 2004. BLM State Offices will complete their review and forward nominations to BLM headquarters by July 31, 2004. The results of the judging will be announced on September 12, 2004, and the awards will be presented on the first or second of October 2003 in Washington, D.C.